

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 04356 121719Z

46

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

OIC-02 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /110 W
----- 053337

P R 121717Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7781

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

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MONTREAL FOR US REP ICAO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, ICAO, FR, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: ICAO SECRETARY-GENERAL CANDIDACY

REF: (A) STATE 34151, (B) PARIS 4126, (C) PARIS
4187, (D) STATE 31783 (NOTAL)

1.. WE ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY DEPT.'S READING
(REF A) INTO REF (B) THAT "FRENCH HAVE YET TO UNCOVER
SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR LAMBERT'S CANDIDACY." THIS
MIGHT STEM FROM MENTION PARA 2 REF (B) THAT A FEW
COUNTRIES INCLUDING US WERE STILL TO BE HEARD FROM AS
WELL AS INDICATION GOF WOULD FILE LAMBERT CANDIDACY
FORMALLY "IF ENOUGH SUPPORT WERE FORTHCOMING".

2. WE SHOULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IN DISCUSSION
REPORTED REF (B) MME. DE LA BATUT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY
SAID IN LOW-KEY MATTER-OF-FACT FASHION THAT THERE WAS
NO RUSH IN COMPLETING FORMALITY OF OFFICIAL FILING
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PAGE 02 PARIS 04356 121719Z

OF LAMBERT CANDIDACY, WHICH WAS ALREADY WELL KNOWN

WITHIN ICAO, SINCE FILING DEADLINE WAS ONLY END FEBRUARY. SOURCE WHO HAD FIRST TOLD US OF LAMBERT CANDIDACY (AND WHO GOT IT FROM CLAUDE ABRAHAM, DIRECTOR OF AIR TRANSPORT AT SGAC), HAD ALSO MENTIONED THAT ONE REASON FOR DELAY IN OFFICIAL FILING OF LAMBERT CANDIDACY COULD BE GOF DESIRE FIRST ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENT ITS NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (PARIS 4125 NOTAL). HENCE THERE MIGHT BE REASONS FOR DELAY IN FRENCH FILING OF LAMBERT CANDIDACY OTHER THAN UNCERTAINTY OVER LEVEL OF SUPPORT. REF (C) REPORT GOF APPARENTLY INTENDS MAINTAIN LAMBERT CANDIDACY DESPITE DILLON CANDIDACY SUGGESTS GOF MUST BE SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT ON BASIS OF WHATEVER PLEDGES OF SUPPORT IT MAY HAVE RECEIVED IN VARIOUS CAPITALS.

3. COPIN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS A BIT GRUFF (REF C) WHEN WE CALLED TO INFORM HIM OF DILLON CANDIDACY, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT FRENCH FEATHERS MAY BE A BIT RUFFLED. AS INDICATED REF (B) FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSERTED USG HAD BEEN INFORMALLY SOUNDED OUT ON LAMBERT CANDIDACY SOME TIME AGO AND DEMARCHE REPORTED REF (D) WAS BY WAY OF FOLLOW-UP IN VIEW LACK OF ANY USG RESPONSE. FACT THAT DEPT. GAVE NO HINT IN REF (D) CONVERSATION OF DILLON CANDIDACY THAT WAS THEN ANNOUNCED NEXT DAY MIGHT LEAD FRENCH TO CONSIDER THAT WE HAD BEEN LESS THAN CANDID WITH THEM IN HEADING OFF CHANCES OF THEIR OWN CANDIDATE.
RUSH

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